

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | 09/657,661 Examiner Lawrence Shrader | KNUTSON, LOREN G. Art Unit 2193 |
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment after final filed on 12/22/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 4, 6 - 22.
3. The drawings filed on 08 September 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/01/2005.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 – 22 are allowed

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the change and/or additions be unacceptable to the Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kurt M. Pankratz, Reg. No. 46,977 on 1 April 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 7, last limitation change:

Delete “said command” and replace it with “a command”

In claim 14, last limitation change:

Delete “said command” and replace it with “a command”

In the specification page 7, line 22:

Delete “FIGURE 9 is” and replace it with “FIGUREs 9A and 9B are”.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Prior art taken either singly and/or in combination, does not teach or disclose a method as recited in independent claims 1 and 7 and the associated computer-readable medium as respectively recited in claims 4, and 14 with the following features:

Claims 1 and 4:

Preparing a project definition including a function definition that identifies a separate image processing program, wherein said function definition identifies a command executed by the image processing program in a manner that affects image data present in a function portion of a project definition.

Claims 7 and 14:

Modifying a set of predetermined function definitions to include a custom function different from the predetermined function, which identifies a separate image processing program, wherein execution of a function portion corresponding to a custom definition causes execution of a command by the image processing program in a manner that affects image data present in a function portion of a project definition.

The closest prior art is Fowlow et al., U.S. Patent 6,083,277, which discloses a plurality of function portions to perform predetermined functions, but does not identify a separate image processing program that executes a command identified by a function definition.

Thus all remaining claims 3, 21; 6, 22; 8 – 13; and 15 – 20 are also allowed. Claims 2 and 5 have been cancelled.

5. Any comments considered necessary by the Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should be preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Shrader whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (571) 272-3719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lawrence Shrader
Examiner
Art Unit 2124

24 March 2005

Chameli C. Das
CHAMELI C. DAS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
4/11/05